



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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BILL HASLAM
Governor

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.
Commissioner

TCDDHH COUNCIL MEETING
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Friday, February 10, 2012

Members Present: Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith (Chair), Jimmy Smith (for Dana Hughes), Deborah Harris, Patti Bell-Norris (Interim Director for Blind Services), Steve Farmer (for Alan Mealka), Summer Chappell, Michael Friedman, Kate Kanies and Margie Ulrich.

Members Not Present: Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), Dana Hughes, Alan Mealka and Cherrell Campbell-Street (Assistant Commissioner).

Call to Order

At approximately 9:00 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Deborah Harris had a correction. Sonia Howley was reporting for Deborah Harris instead of Summer Chappell. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on November 4, 2011.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Deborah Harris and seconded by Summer Chappell for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on November 4, 2011.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.
Motion Carried.

Assistant Commissioner Report Cherrell Campbell - Street

DRS Report Patti Bell-Norris

The report was given by Patti Bell-Norris. Ms. Campbell-Street continues to look at the Rehabilitation Services Administration monitoring report and is in the process of submitting the department's responses.

She is still interviewing for a Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and a Director of Deaf-Blind and Blind Services. Hopefully we will have someone in place by the first of March.

The Rehabilitation Act requires that the department conduct public hearings each year on the state plan. All hearings will be held at 5 p.m. depending on the time zone you are in. The dates are: Tuesday, May 1 in Johnson City, Wednesday, May 2 in Knoxville, Monday, May 7 in Nashville, Tuesday, May 8 in Jackson, Wednesday, May 9 in Memphis and Wednesday, May 16 in Chattanooga.

We still have 2 vacancies in the RCDS, one in Knoxville and one in Memphis and are hoping to make a recommendation soon.

Council Member Reports

- **Jimmy Smith (for Dana Hughes)** –
 - Mr. Hughes is currently working on CDL licensure for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
 - TAD will be hosting the NAD conference in 2015. No site has been set yet.
- **Summer Chappell** –
 - TRID has not passed our bylaws. It's probably going to go to executive committee.
 - RID Region 2 had a conference call last week. The Acting Executive Director for RID was on the call. He said they have started giving the NIC enhanced test.
 - The conference for Region 2 this year will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on August 2-5.
 - The Tennessee state conference is going to be in Nashville on June 1-2.
- **Lordy Smith** –
 - MCBDA (Memphis Chapter Black Deaf Advocates) had their Christmas party in December.
 - On January 28, Deaf Connect had a workshop for receptive skills training that I was involved in.
- **Michael Friedman** –
 - The Chattanooga chapter for TAD is trying to recruit new members. The current president has asked me to take over. I am undecided at this time.

- There are some budgeting issues but we are making some headway.
- **Steve Farmer (for Alan Mealka) –**
 - We are accepting 2 to 3 new students every week. A lot of them are from West Tennessee.
 - Next month several students will be going to Washington, DC for an academic bowl that will be held at Gallaudet University.
 - May 17 is graduation for our seniors. Approximately 14-15 will be graduating.
 - There will be an interpreter workshop June 11-14 mostly for educational interpreters that work in the public schools all over the state.
 - There will be a summer camp held for 5th through 8th grade students the first full week of July. The second full week of July there will be a summer camp held for the high school students.
- **Margie Ulrich –**
 - Technology is improving. People have more choices than ever to hear better, to use the cell phone and hearing aid.
 - Sometimes we are still poorly served and people are not told all of their choices. We are trying to get the word out.
- **Kate Kanies –**
 - I am a new member and I am replacing Lygia Williams. I am from the TN Dept. of Mental Health. I am also president of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Nashville chapter.
 - I want to tell you about a new program called Connections Work. It's a 6 year federal grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program serves children from 0 to 5 years of age.
 - The program is focusing on 5 counties in TN: Dickson, Cheatham, Sumner, Montgomery and Robertson. This program is a way to coordinate all types of services for the families of children who have emotional or social behavior problems.
 - Part of the Early Connections Network is the commitment to culturally and linguistic competent services for children.
 - There will also be special emphasis placed on serving military families.
- **Deborah Harris -**
 - Memphis City schools and Shelby County schools will continue to exist as separate entities until the 2013-14 school year. In the meantime, all board decisions for Memphis City and Shelby County schools will come under the jurisdiction of the 23 member Shelby County Board of Education.
 - The person in charge of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program in Shelby County is working with us in Memphis City. Shelby County contracts with Memphis City to serve most of their Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.
 - As of July 1, 2013, we will hopefully be one system.

Executive Director's Report

November

5

Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind Meeting

12

Statewide Workshop for Teachers, Parents & Other Professionals

December

1

Technology and Resources Enhancing Deaf-Blind Supports (TREDs)

8

Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Access (TBHA)

10	Hearing Loss Association of America-Nashville Chapter
16	Tennessee Rehabilitation Center Graduation
January	
12	Cookeville Town Hall Meeting (Agencies & Deaf Community)
26	Emergency Awareness and Readiness Services (EARS) Meeting
February	
8	Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Statewide Advisory Council

Other activities include, but not limited to, providing assistance in obtaining hearing aids, providing advocacy, and serving on the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Regional Meeting (Intrastate Departmental Chair), Deaf Career Day 2012 Planning Committee and the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness 2012 Conference Committee.

Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
 - CCDHH has provided 31.25 hours of community service interpreting for various appointments this past quarter.
 - CCDHH hired a new interpreter.
 - CCDHH has been working with a program called WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan).
- **KCD – Terry Osborne** -
 - KCD has named Terry Osborne as CEO and Craig as COO.
 - KCD is reconstructing their website. The Video Remote Interpreting Program has set up a second station.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
 - JCIL raised funds to have a new playground put in. Ten boxes of books were donated for the Christmas program.
 - The center had it's annual open house on December 15. ASL classes are starting in March.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
 - Bridges is involved in a competition called Collaboration College.
 - Mike Helms is our new Education and Outreach Coordinator.
- **Deaf Connect – Teresa Wilson** -
 - Deaf Connect has started ASL classes again.
 - Deaf Connect has had several workshops and events.
 - Deaf Connect now has had a staff shift and will be putting out a posting for the front office.
- **PFCA – Todd Bragg** –
 - At Christmas we adopted 14 families in the Deaf community. We are getting ready to replace the computers in the deaf service area.
 - We are planning an Applebee's pancake fundraiser for St. Patrick's Day.

Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell –
 - We suggested closed captioning for Disability Day on the Hill during session meetings.
- **Legislative Committee**, Vacant – No Report
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris –
 - The DLA Memphis serves 22 families and continues to add families. The Memphis CIL donated a space for the DLA Library.
 - The DFLA M has been awarded a \$40,000 technology grant from Comcast.
- **Social Welfare**, Vacant – No Report

Announcements

Summer Chappell: There is a religious conference on March 10 near Chattanooga. March 15 is the Deaf Expo in Chattanooga. On March 17, after KCD's pancake breakfast there will be a workshop held in Maryville. To find out more information about the TRID conference, go to our website at www.TNRID.org.

Thom Roberts, SERID: The Annual SERID Conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Chattanooga, October 16th – 19th this coming year. It will be the 42nd annual conference and we hope to make it the best ever. There are eight states in the region that participate and we hope to have representation from all groups there to represent Tennessee. Our goal this year is to help prepare for employment and we will have 59 workshops. We anticipate approximately 300 – 325 people and hope to see all of you there. For more information the web-site is: www.serid.org.

Sandy Cohen, Nashville Public Library: The Library's eighth annual career day will be held March 1 at the Nashville Public Library. It is open to seventh grade thru high school aged students.

John Forbes: The Deaf-Blind Camp will be May 15th – 20th at Garner Creek Retreat Center. SSPS are free and it will be limited to 40 campers and 60 SSPS. We want to encourage everyone to attend.

Donice Kaufman: Wellfest will be held on March 24 from 9:30 – 3:00 at the Nashville Public Library downtown on Church St. There will be many screenings and Dr. Robert Baldwin will be speaking. Everyone is invited.

Old Business/New Business

- **New:**
 - Kate Kanies was appointed as the Social Welfare Committee Chair.
- **Old:**
 - Council meetings are set for the following dates:
 - May 18, 2012
 - August 10, 2012
 - November 9, 2012
 - KCD will bring breakfast on May 18th, and Deaf Connect will bring breakfast on November 9th, leaving August 10th open.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Lordy Smith at 12:00 P.M.